



Year 1

Phonics Screening Check

Information for parents

2023

What is Phonics?

Children are taught to read by breaking down words into separate sounds or 'phonemes'. They are then taught how to blend these sounds together to read the whole word.

Children have a 45 minute phonics lessons 5 days a week and they are encouraged to use these strategies to read and write in other lessons.

RWI

At John of Gaunt Infant School we follow the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme.

RWI is a validated systematic synthetic phonics programme which is approved by the Department for Education (DfE)

Technical vocabulary

A **phoneme** is the smallest unit of sound in a word. A phoneme may be represented by 1, 2, 3 or 4 letters.

Eg. t ai igh

Graphemes are the written representation of sounds.

Technical vocabulary

A **digraph** is two letters which make one sound. A trigraph is three letters which make one sound. In RWI we call these **Special Friends**. There are also four and five letter Special Friends.

sh

ay

ear

are

tion

A **split digraph** is a digraph in which the two letters are not adjacent (e.g. m**a**ke) In RWI we call these **Chatty Friends**.

i-e

a-e

o-e

e-e

u-e

Technical vocabulary

Oral Blending – hearing a series of spoken sounds and merging them together to make a spoken word (no text is used) for example, when an adult calls out '**b-u-s**', the children say **bus**.

Blending – recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example **c-u-p**, and merging them in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word '**cup**'.

Segmenting – identifying the individual sounds in a spoken word (e.g. **h-i-m**) and writing down or manipulating letters for each sound to form the word '**him**'.

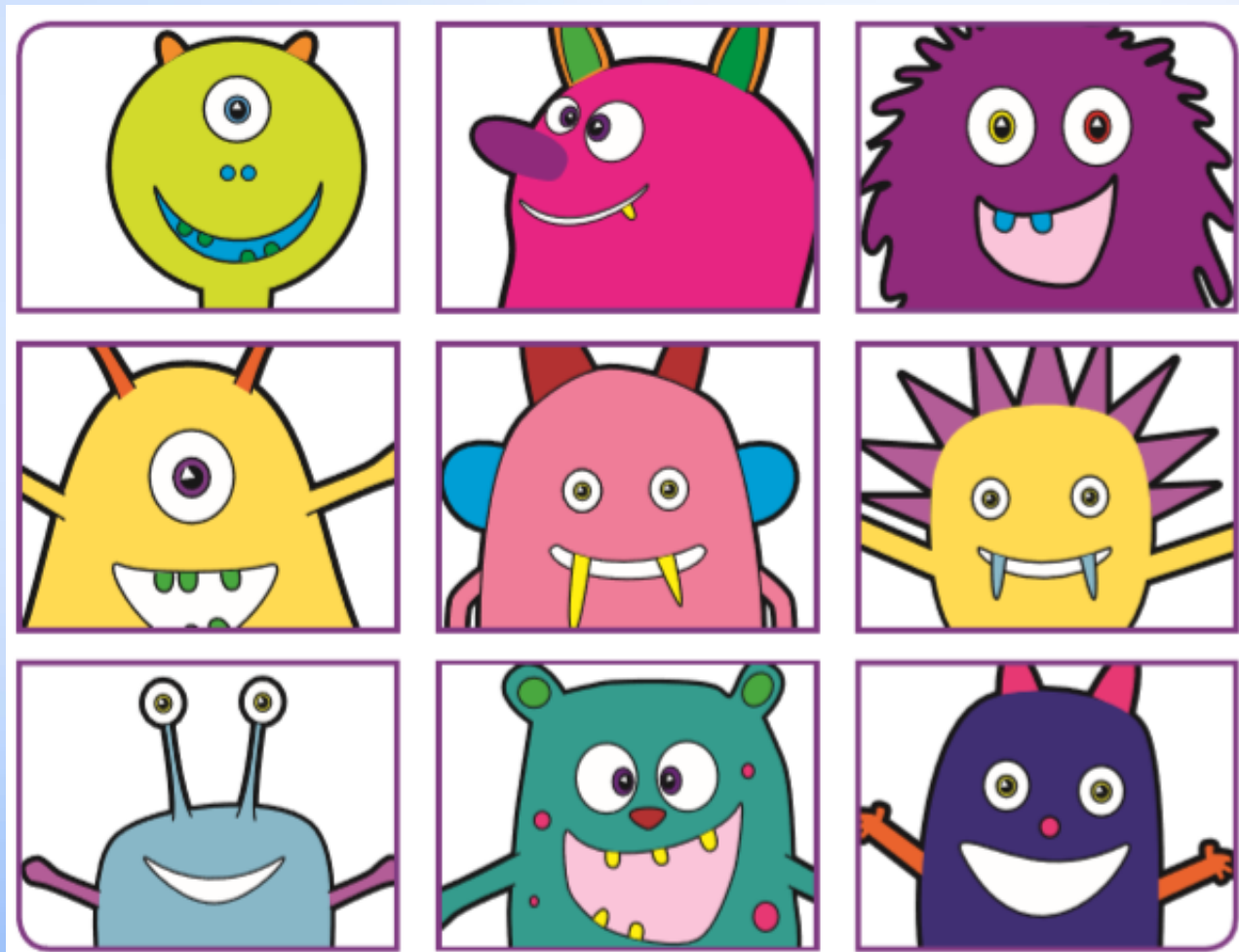
Technical vocabulary

CVC stands for consonant, vowel, consonant such as the word c-a-t.

CVCC and CCVC are words with more than two consonants such as w-e-n-t and f-r-o-g

CVC refers to phonemes NOT the number of letters in a word: coat, cat, tap, shop

Phonics Screening Check (PSC)



What is the phonics screening check?

The phonics screening check is a short assessment to check if individual children have learnt phonetic decoding to an appropriate standard. This is not to test a child's vocabulary.

The check consists of 40 words, 20 real words and 20 pseudo-words that your child will be asked to read one-to-one with a teacher.

Who is it for?

The screening check is for all Year 1 pupils and children in Year 2 who previously did not meet the standard of the check in Year 1.

Is it compulsory?

It is a statutory requirement for all schools to carry out the screening check.

When does the Phonics Check happen?

The phonics screening check takes place in June of each year.

This year, the screening checks begin on **Monday 12th June 2023.**

How is the check structured?

It will be a short, simple screening check to make sure that all children have grasped basic phonic skills. Most children complete the check within 10 minutes but there is no time limit.

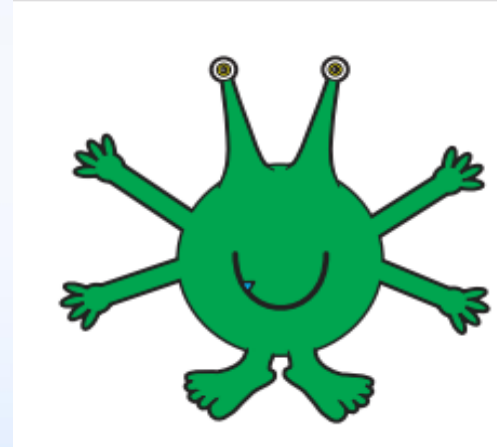
The check will contain a mix of real words and 'alien words' (nonsense words). Your child will be told before the check that there will be alien words that he or she has not seen before.

We use 'alien words' in RWI lessons so children will be familiar with these types of words.

Alien words

The children will know which are the nonsense words as they will have a picture of an alien next to them.

An example alien word is **osk**.



It is important that the children sound out and blend the sounds and not try to make it into a real word.

Remember this is not a reading test!

Examples of words

Section 1

chop

sing

dart

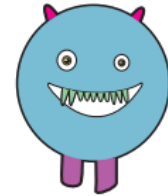
shock

Section 1

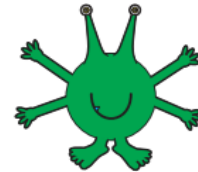
skap



blorn



meft



veems



Examples of words

Section 2

blast

groans

spray

strike

Section 2

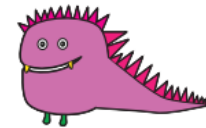
flisp



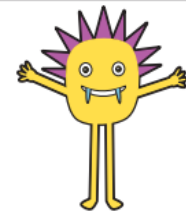
braint



scrid



splote



How can I help at home?

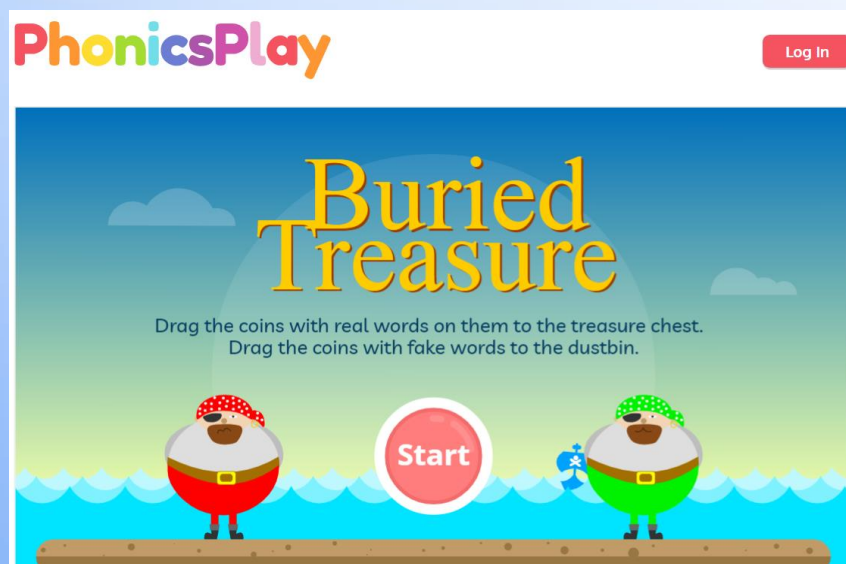
- We will be sending home Phonics packs with a mixture of real and alien words for you to practise with at home.
- In RWI all the children approach reading a new word in the same way. The adult uses the phrase '**Spot the Special Friends, Fred Talk, Read the Word.**'
- For example; the word is **strike**. The adult will say 'Spot the Special Friends, Fred Talk, Read the Word.' The child will say, i-e, then Fred Talk the sounds and then blend the sounds together by Read the Word.
- If a word does not contain any Special Friends, we shake our heads and move onto Fred Talk.
- It is very helpful that adults at home approach reading words in the same way.
- Please practise Special Friends and in particular Chatty Friends as children tend to find these more difficult to identify within words.
- We will use the half termly RWI assessments to identify any sound gaps a child may have and will send home video links for those sounds to help with practise at home.

How can I help at home?

The following games on Phonics Play are particularly helpful for reading real and nonsense words:

Buried Treasure

Picnic on Pluto



Results

You will be informed of your child's results with their School Reports in July.

The pass rate is not published until all the checks are completed across the country.

The pass mark for previous years has been 32 out of 40, but this could change.

You will be informed if your child has either passed or not passed.

If your child does not pass the check they will be required to re-take the screening in Year 2.

Questions

